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A LOOK AHEAD FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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Jockeying for top slots in a Reagan administration is heating up--assuming that Republicans will pull off a victory in the seesaw presidential campaign. Inside the GOP camp, this is the way the cabinet talk is going . . .

State--George Shultz, former Treasury Secretary who has gained wide international experience as president of the Bechtel Group. An outside possibility, Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), would take some persuading.

Henry Kissinger? More likely to be on call for special assignments.

Defense--Gen. Alexander Haig, former Allied commander in Europe, now president of United Technologies Corporation. Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), if Reagan needs a bipartisan touch. Jackson has turned down the job twice.

Treasury--Charls Walker, former deputy secretary. William Simon, Ford's Treasury Secretary, wants something different, like Defense. Alan Greenspan, ex-chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, could end up Treasury chief.

Justice--William French Smith, Reagan's attorney, or Caspar Weinberger, veteran of GOP cabinets. Long shots: California Justice William Clark, or Ed Meese, if he does not move into the White House as chief of staff.

Commerce--Bill Brock, Republican national chairman, or Anne Armstrong, if she does not go to the United Nations as Ambassador.

Labor--Thomas Sowell, U.C.L.A. economist. Betty Murphy, former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, also is being pushed for the spot.

Housing and Urban Development--Senator Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) or Representative Thomas Evans (R-Del.).

Health and Human Services--Robert Carleson, who ran California's welfare program, or Schweiker. Search is on for a black to add to the list.

Transportation--Drew Lewis of Philadelphia, a key campaign aide, or Evans.

Interior--Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) or almost anyone he pushes.

Agriculture--Governor Robert Ray of Iowa, if he would take it.

Energy--Representative Dave Stockman (R-Mich.), to keep agency in check.

Education--No candidate yet for another department Reagan wants abolished.

Top White House jobs will go to campaign aides: Richard V. Allen, national-security adviser; Martin Anderson, domestic-affairs adviser. William Casey, the campaign chairman, is slated to head Central Intelligence Agency.

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Note that most of those on the tentative Reagan list have had years of experience in government. That's important to a President who plans to delegate authority, make cabinet officers real centers of policymaking power.